Message Text

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R 182315Z JUL 77 FM AMCONSUL TIJUANA TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1969

UNCLAS TIJUANA 0390

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SOCI MX

SUBJ: ANOTHER BORDER SHOOTING

1. TWO TIJUANA POLICEMEN WERE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AND ONE SAN DIEGO POLICEMAN LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN EXCHANGE OF FIRE JUST INSIDE US BORDER WEST OF SAN YSIDRO EVENING JULY 16. TIJUANA POLICEMEN ARE OUT OF DANGER. ONE IS IN HOSPITAL IN TIJUANA, WHILE THE OTHER IS IN A US HOSPITAL, POSSIBLY TO BE CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER. POLICE LEADERS ON BOTH SIDES OF LINE, HOWEVER, HAVE EXPRESSED DESIRE THAT INCIDENT NOT AFFECT NORMAL GOOD RELATIONS WHICH PREVAIL BETWEEN LOCAL US AND MEXICAN POLICE. THIS SHOOTING, FOLLOWING JUNE 25 ATTEMPT BY TIJUANA POLICE OFFICERS TO HOLD UP TIJUANA'S MAYOR, WHO WAS TOURING HANGOUTS OF ASPIRING ILLEGALS IN TIJUANA WHILE DISGUISED AS WORKER HIMSELF, WOULD AT THE LEAST INDICATE CERTAIN LACK OF JUDGMENT AMONG SOME MEMBERS OF TIJUANA POLICE FORCE.

2. INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN AREA WHERE BORDER CLEARLY AND UNMISTAKABLY DEMARCATED BY HIGH WIRE FENCE. SEVERAL MEMBERS SAN DIEGO SPECIAL TASK FORCE, DRESSED LIKE MEXICAN WORKERS, WERE NEAR LINE TALKING TO MEXICANS ON OTHER SIDE WHEN TIJUANA POLICE CAR ARRIVED AND OFFICERS PICKED UP MEXICANS. SAN DIEGO POLICE WITHDREW AND, WHEN THEY DID NOT RESPOND TO TIJUANA OFFICERS' ORDER UNCLASSIFIED

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TO COME INTO MEXICO, LATTER WALKED UNDER BORDER FENCE (WHERE THERE DITCH) IN PURSUIT. SAN DIEGO POLICE THEN IDENTIFIED SELVES, BUT TIJUANA OFFICER STRUCK AT ONE AND FIRED SHOT. SAN DIEGO POLICE THEN OPENED FIRE. ONE TIJUANA OFFICER WAS ABLE TO RETURN THROUGH FENCE; THE OTHER WAS CAPTURED.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY A NUMBER OF MEXICAN POLICE CROSSED LINE WITHOUT

AN INVITATION TO EXAMINE AREA, POSSIBLY LOOKING FOR SECOND TIJUANA OFFICER. THEY WERE OBSERVED RETURNING WITH ABOUT TEN ILLEGALS THEY FOUND ON US SIDE.

4. PRESS COVERAGE THUS FAR IN TIJUANA HAS NOT BEEN CRITICAL OF UNITED STATES AND HAS NOTED THAT MEXICAN POLICE WERE ON US SOIL WHEN SHOOTING TOOK PLACE. ONE PAPER, EL MEXICANO, WHICH GENERALLY IDENTIFIED WITH GOVERNMENT, DISPLAYED ITS CHRONIC INABILITY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN BORDER PATROL AND POLICE AND IDENTIFIED US PARTICIPANTS AS BORDER PATROL AGENTS.

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